



Virginia Green Visitor Center Profile:



Suffolk Visitor Center Suffolk, Virginia

Virginia Green is the Commonwealth of Virginia's campaign to promote environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia's tourism industry. **Virginia Green** has established "core activities" specific to each sector of tourism, and these practices are considered the required minimum for participation in the program. However, **Virginia Green** encourages its participants to reduce their environmental impacts in all aspects of their operations; and this profile provides a full list of all their "green" activities. These are the activities that guests / customers can expect to find when they visit this facility.

Suffolk Visitor Center

"The Suffolk Visitor Center assists visitors and houses the Division of Tourism."

Green Statement: We went green "to help the environment and encourage others to do so."

CORE ACTIVITIES for all *Virginia Green Visitor Centers*

"☑" This symbol indicates a required activity for Virginia Green Visitor Centers. Participants self-certify that these activities are in place and they provide additional specifics on other activities. Visitors to **VC** can expect the following practices:

☒ **Recycling and Waste Reduction.** Virginia Green facilities must recycle Glass Bottles and are highly encouraged to maintain a comprehensive recycling program. This facility pledges that they:

- Recycle: aluminum cans, plastic, office paper, toner cartridges, newspaper, cardboard, batteries, electronic equipment
- Plenty of highly-visible signage promoting recycling and bins
- Track overall waste bill and recycling poundage and bills
- Eliminate the use of Styrofoam
- Reduce paper wastes by providing on-line access to brochures and other tourism information
- Encourage that brochures be printed on high-recycled content paper with environmentally friendly inks
- Encourage suppliers to minimize packaging and other waste materials
- Purchase from vendors and service providers with a commitment to the environment
- Make 2-sided copies/ printed materials
- Use electronic correspondence and forms
- Purchase durable equipment and furniture
- Use reused building materials or those from sustainable sources
- Perform preventative maintenance on all appliances, HVAC systems, plumbing, and vehicles
- Use a last-in/first-out inventory and labeling system
- Use less toxic materials

☒ **Styrofoam/Disposables Minimization.** Participants are encouraged to minimize use of all disposables and eliminate the use of Styrofoam products for take-out and left-overs. This facility pledges that they:

- Use disposable containers made from bio-based materials, recycled content paper, and that are compostable and/or recyclable

☒ **Water Conservation.** The facility must have a plan for conserving water that should consider plumbing modifications and landscaping. This facility pledges that they:

- Perform preventative maintenance to stop drips and leaks
- Discourage water-based cleanup (sweeping first) and use microfiber technology mops

☒ **Energy Conservation.** The facility must have a plan in place that encourages replacement of lighting and equipment to energy-efficient alternatives. This facility pledges that they:

- Use compact fluorescent light bulbs
- Have individual thermostats for each room/area
- Use natural lighting

☒ **Support Virginia Green.** Pledge to promote the efforts of Virginia Green to your clients, members and staff and encourage them to join or do business with Virginia Green participants. This partner organization pledges that they:

- Develop a webpage that details your organization's commitment to Virginia Green
- Develop a "Green Getaways" package
- Post the Virginia Green window decal and use the logo on recycling signage and any other signage pointing out your facility's efforts to reduce environmental impacts
- Encourage other regional businesses in the tourism industry to join Virginia Green
- Establish a travel/conference policy that encourages employees to stay in/do business with Virginia Green or similarly minded facilities
- Include a Virginia Green feature in your newsletter or other publications

For more information on **Suffolk Visitor Center**, see www.suffolk-fun.com or contact **Valencia Moore** at ymoore@city.suffolk.va.us or 757-514-4133.

For more information on the **Virginia Green** program, see www.deq.state.va.us/p2/viriniagreen/homepage.html or go to www.viriniagreentravel.org.



Virginia Green is the Commonwealth's campaign to encourage environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia's tourism industry. *Virginia Green* is supported through a partnership between the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Hospitality & Travel Association, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

